

Components of an Article/Study Critique

The literature review section of a paper will include several article summaries. These article summaries should include information on the following: study design and purpose, theoretical foundations, level of evidence, sample, ethics/informed consent, data collection, data analysis, results, significance, and strengths/weaknesses of the study. Below are more detailed explanations of these components. These components should be discussed in the order below, but paragraph breaks may vary based on the preference of the writer. Color changes below serve as recommendations for paragraph breaks (red=paragraph one; green=paragraph two; blue=paragraph three).

Study Design and Purpose:

The writer should identify the study design (i.e. was it longitudinal? Qualitative? Quantitative? Etc.). The writer should clearly state the study's purpose and research question. If a setting is provided for the study it should be mentioned here.

Theoretical Foundations:

The writer will state any theories that grounded the study.

Level of Evidence:

Identify the level of evidence based on the accepted hierarchy of evidence in the field.

Sample:

The writer should explain how the sample was selected. Any inclusion or exclusion criteria should be listed. The demographics of the final sample will then be stated.

Ethics/Informed Consent:

The writer will state whether the sample gave informed consent and if any internal or external review boards ensured the ethicality of the study.

Data Collection:

The writer will list all variables measured. Then, methods of measurement or data collection will be explained. It is important to be as detailed as possible about variables and methods of collection.

Data Analysis:

The writer will list all tools used in the process of data analysis. A detailed explanation of data analysis will be provided.

Results/Significance:

The writer will summarize the study's findings and explain whether or not they were statistically significant.

Evaluation:

The writer will list strengths and weaknesses identified by the researchers of the study; they will then identify any additional strengths or weaknesses of the study not listed by the researchers. Any other limitations of the study should be mentioned here.



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